

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been divided into Groups as follows:

Group I: Claims 1–14, drawn to aqueous sols and processes of making aqueous sols.

Group II: Claims 15–26, drawn to coating compositions and optical elements comprising said coatings.

Applicants elect, without traverse, Group I, Claims 1–14 (drawn to aqueous sols and processes of making aqueous sols), for examination.

Additionally, Applicants are required to elect from the species as follows: (1) the sol particle nuclei comprising SnO₂ particles or the sol particle nuclei comprising SnO₂/ZrO₂ composite particles; (2) the sol particle coating comprising an alkylamine-Sb₂O₅ compound or the sol particle coating comprising a SiO₂-Sb₂O₅ compound; (3) the process with or without a hydrothermal treatment in step (a); and (4) the process with or without an anion exchanger step (d).

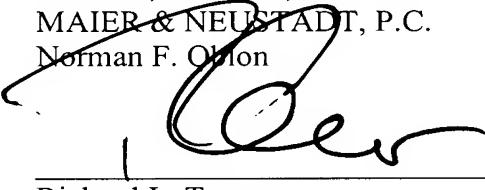
Applicants also provisionally elect, for examination purposes only, the following species:

(1) **SnO₂/ZrO₂** composite particles (claims 3, 6, 8, 10, 12, and 14), (2) the sol particle coating comprising an **alkylamine-Sb₂O₅** compound (claims 1–3 and 7–10), (3) the process **with** a hydrothermal treatment in step (a) (claims 9, 10, 13, and 14), and (4) **with** an anion exchanger step (claims 8, 10, 12, and 14).

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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